

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 HEW-08

IO-14 SCI-06 MED-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20

DRC-01 /139 W

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R 152045Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7946

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, HA

SUBJECT: ANTHRAX

REF: P-AU-P 0878

FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH VERSION OF LETTER DELIVERED TODAY FROM
PAO TO EDITOR NOUVEAU MONDE:

(BEGIN TEXT)

AFTER READING THE EDITORIAL IN YOUR MAY 11-12 ISSUE,
"UNE PANIQUE DU SIECLE DERNIER," I FEEL THAT I SHOULD STATE
FOR YOUR READERS THE FACTS OF THE CASE AS I KNOW THEM.

FIRST OF ALL, THE ILLNESS OF THE YOUNG WOMAN IN QUESTION
WAS VERY DEFINITELY DIAGNOSED BY EXPERTS AS ANTHRAX, AND THE
LIVING SPORES THAT CAUSE THIS DISEASE HAVE BEEN FOUND ON DRUMS
AND OTHER ARTICLES WHICH SHE AND OTHER TRAVELERS PURCHASED IN
HAITI.

CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION IN YOUR EDITORIAL, ANTHRAX IS
A SERIOUS DISEASE IN HUMAN BEINGS AND, INDEED, CAN CAUSE DEATH
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WHEN IT IS NOT DETECTED IN TIME AND GIVEN PROPER TREATMENT.

FINALLY, I BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S
RECORD IN ASSISTING HAITI IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE
HEALTH OF ITS PEOPLE IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL WHO HAVE WORKED
IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH HERE. THIS RECORD WAS
MAINTAINED, EVEN WHEN USAID WAS SUSPENDED IN HAITI FOR
TEN YEARS, BY THE UNINTERRUPTED AMERICAN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH PROGRAMS.

(FORMAL CLOSING.)

HARRY L. HUGHES
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

(END TEXT)
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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